

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 061123Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 447

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AU

SUBJECT: MEETING OF ARAB AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA

1. FIVE ARAB AMBASSADORS (EGYPTIAN, LIBYAN, IRAQI, LEBANESE AND SAUDI ARABIAN), ACCREDITED TO GOA AND RESIDENT IN VIENNA, MET IN AUSTRIAN CAPITAL NOVEMBER 5 REPORTEDLY TO DISCUSS WHETHER AUSTRIA IS PRO-ISRAEL OR PRO-ARAB AND WHAT, IF ANY, CONCLUSIONS (POSSIBLE EFFECT ON OIL DELIVERIES TO AUSTRIA) SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM SUCH ASSESSMENT. DISCUSSION OF AMBASSADORS WAS SAID TO HAVE FOCUSSED ON (1) CONTINUED OPERATION OF SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP FOR SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES IN SPITE OF EARLIER GOA ANNOUNCEMENTS ON ITS IMPENDING CLOSURE AND ON (2) AUSTRO-ISRAELI SOCIETY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SIGNING OF PRO-ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS BY ABOUT 100 PROMINENT AUSTRIANS.

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2. ARAB EMBASSIES HAVE RESPONDED TO PRESS

QUERIES RE MEETING WITH "NO COMMENT". EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN AMBASSADORS, HOWEVER, QUOTED IN KURIER OF NOVEMBER 6 AS STATING "AUSTRIA DOES NOT HAVE MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT" AND THAT RELOCATION OF SCHOENAU FACILITY IS "INTERNAL AUSTRIAN AFFAIR WHICH DOES NOT CONCERN ARAB STATES".

3. ARAB AMBASSADORS REPORTEDLY ARE INFORMING THEIR GOVERNMENTS OF THEIR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS AND HAVE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, WHEN, ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN PRESS SPECULATION, AUSTRIA'S CLASSIFICATION AS "FRIENDLY NEUTRAL COUNTRY" OR "ENEMY OF ARABS" WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE KNOWN.

4. COMMENT: MEETING OF ARAB AMBASSADORS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO PUT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON GOA TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS REPEATED ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT SCHOENAU FACILITY WOULD BE CLOSED IN NEAR FUTURE. ARAB COMMENT THAT TRANSFER OF FACILITY ACTIVITIES TO ANOTHER SITE IS MATTER OF NO CONCERN TO ARABS SUGGESTS THAT, AT LEAST AT THIS JUNCTURE, ARAB GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT ALSO TRY TO PRESSURE GOA TO PRECLUDE USE OF AUSTRIA AS TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES. BY ENCOURAGING PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE LINKAGE OF OIL DELIVERIES WITH POSTURE OF GOA, MEETING OF ARAB AMBASSADORS ALSO HAS LONGER TERM AIM OF CONTINUING TO MOVE GOA FURTHER ALONG ROUTE AWAY FROM ITS 1967 PRO-ISRAELI NEUTRALITY STANCE.
HUMES

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